

2005-2006 Undergraduate Scholars

Twenty-eight undergraduates from minority-serving institutions in nine states and Puerto Rico began work this summer with scientists from, NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Working with our scientists on challenging research projects this summer will give these students a chance to enhance their education while helping NOAA carry out its mission," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator.

All of the students are pursuing studies in a NOAA-related science and have completed their sophomore or junior class requirements. For ten weeks the students conducted research in NOAA line offices. During the academic year, the students receive tuition and fee assistance, and funds for other allowable expenses.

"This is the largest class of students we have had since NOAA began its Educational Partnership Program in 2001," said Jacqueline Rousseau, director of NOAA's Educational Partnerships Program with Minority Serving Institutions. "It is encouraging that there are so many qualified students interested in pursuing opportunities to intern at NOAA."

A minimum of a 3.0 grade point average is required for acceptance into the program, developed to encourage more minority students to study the sciences and consider NOAA as a career.



*Marcus Atkinson, Mathematics
North Carolina A&T University
Assignment: National Weather Service
Research: Transcribing weather broadcast dictionary*



*Markeitta Benjamin, Meteorology
Jackson State University (Mississippi)
Assignment: National Weather Service/National Center for
Environmental Prediction
Research: Evaluation radar products from WRF simulations*



*Marques Bivins, Business Management
Florida A&M University
Assignment: NOAA Grants Office
Research: Reengineering grants closeout processes*



*Reginald Black, Marine Biology
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Chesapeake Bay
Office
Research: Sonar scanning of oyster reefs and the effects
of ghost crab pots*

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*Brandi Brehon, Math and Computer Science
Elizabeth City State University (North Carolina)
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Center for Coastal
Ocean Science
Research: Analysis of statistical methods used in
environmental science research*



*Rejane Frederick, Biochemical Research
Juanita College (Pennsylvania)
Assignment: National Ocean Service/National Marine
Sanctuaries
Research: Elevating the value and significance of
maritime heritage resources in the states through the
Coastal Zone Management Program*



*Ashley D. Heard, Marine Science and Art
University of Hawaii at Hilo
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Center for Coastal
Ocean Science
Research: Effects of sonar on marine mammals*



*Michael Hicks, Mathematics
Paine College (Georgia)
Assignment: NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences at
Howard University
Research: Numerical Solutions of two dimensional La
Place's equation using finite elements*



*Toni-Ann Hylton, Environmental Science
Florida A&M University
Assignment: National Ocean Service
Research: Marine toxins in pharmaceuticals*



*Courtney Jackson, Computer Engineering
Bethune Cookman College (Florida)
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Center for Coastal
Ocean Science
Research: SAS development*

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*Timothy L. Jones, Optical Engineering
Norfolk State University
Assignment: NOAA Satellite and Information Service/
National Oceanographic Data Center
Research: Modifications of alternative dissemination
methods (ADM) system*



*Kiera-Nicole Lee, Chemistry
South Carolina State University
Assignment: NOAA Satellite and Information Service/
National Oceanographic Data Center
Research: The seasonal cycle of dissolved inorganic
nutrients and oxygen in the surface waters in Hawaii*



*Tyronza Lee, Biology
Jackson State University (Mississippi)
Assignment: National Marine Fisheries Service
Research: How to determine the health of a marine
mammal*



*Precious Lewis, Biology
Tennessee State University
Assignment: National Weather Service/Office of Hydrology
Development
Research: Clustering stations for precipitation frequency
analysis for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands*



*Vincent Long, Electrical Engineering
Florida A&M University
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Operational
Oceanographic Products and Services
Research: Upgrading tide stations*



*Justin Martin, Computer Engineering
Columbia Union College (Maryland)
Assignment: National Marine Fisheries Service/Office of
Science and Technology
Research: Analysis through optics and IDL*

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*J'shunte McCollough, Engineering/Physics
Morgan State University (Maryland)
Assignment: National Weather Service/Centers for
Environmental Prediction
Research: Verification of model forecasts*



*Shelia Milton, Mathematics
Paine College (Georgia)
Assignment: NOAA Satellite and Information Service/
Office of Systems Development
Research: Tie point analysis of GOES operational
satellites and trend plotting of POES high resolution
infrared radiation sounder (HIRS) instrument*



*Krizia Negron-Hernandez, Environmental Science
University of Puerto Rico-Piedras
Assignment: Oceans and Atmospheric Research/Weather
and Air Quality
Research: Distribution of surface winds in hurricanes*



*Soralis Pimentel, Electrical Engineering/Meteorology
University of Puerto Rico- Mayaguez
Assignment: NOAA Satellite and Information Service
Research: Global positioning system receiver and inter-
satellite communication RF design*



*Jenelle Rogers, Information Systems
Columbia Union College (Maryland)
Assignment: National Ocean Service
Research: The value of printed outreach material as
research tools*



*Marcus Rountree, Environmental Science
North Carolina Central University
Assignment: NOAA Research/Office of Scientific Support
Research: Examination of local impacts of atmospheric
mercury emissions*

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*Samuel Sturdivant, Marine Biology
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
Research: Assessing and tracking resident male loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*) in and around Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary*



*Cre'Shannan Thompson, Mathematics/Computer Science
Clark Atlanta University (Georgia)
Assignment: National Ocean Service/National Geodetic Survey
Research: Data structures with java*



*Tyronza Thompson, Computer Science
Jackson State University (Mississippi)
Assignment: National Ocean Service/ National Marine Sanctuaries
Research: Discovering **The San Agustin** using ArcGis mapping*



*Sinclair White, Mathematics/Electrical Engineering
Albany State University (Georgia)
Assignment: NOAA Marine and Aviation Office
Research: Assessment of the NMAO scientific computer sensor suite*



*Branson Williams, Environmental Science
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Chesapeake Bay Office
Research: Estimation of relative abundance of economically and ecologically important juvenile bluefish and blue crabs in the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay*



*Lauren Wyatt, Marine Science/Biology
University of Miami
Assignment: National Ocean Service/Chesapeake Bay Office
Research: Measuring the amount of nutrients, pesticides and the growth and reproductive parameters of grass shrimp*